GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:332
ANSWERED ON:04.02.2004
HEALTH MELAS
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Health Melas are being organised during January-February, 2004 in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the response thereto; and

(c) the manner in which rural people will be benefited therefrom?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(c):A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 332 FOR 04.02.2004

The `Swasthya Jagrukta Maah` is being observed between 15th January to 15th February, 2004.A Health Mela is proposed to be held in each Parliamentary Constituency during this period for three consecutive days. The District Collector, in consultation with the Members of Parliament, will select the venue and dates of the Health Mela.A guideline to hold the Health Mela has been provided to MPs, State Governments and District Collectors. A grant of Rs.8 lakhs is given by the Central Government to meet the cost of infrastructure arrangements, publicity, necessary drugs, medicines etc. In order to have a participatory approach, the local MP and the District Administration have been requested to mobilize further financial and other resources locally to supplement the efforts.

The Health Mela will be an intensive effort for generating awareness among people on various health issues. National programmes on prevention of blindness, leprosy control, tuberculosis control, cancer control, malaria, HIV/AIDS, family planning and the Ayurveda, Unani & Homeopathy will put up exhibitions, displaying materials for information on health issues concerning people. In addition, free check-up, counseling and basic medicines will be provided for entire range of health and family welfare services.

So far, grants have been released for Health Melas for 453 constituencies from where details have been received from the District Administration and the concerned Member of Parliament from all over the country. It has been observed that most of the melas organized so far have been held in rural and semi-urban areas. Large number of people are reported to have availed free services for check-up, treatment and medicines, apart from getting knowledge on various health issues. Thus, people across the entire country have benefitted from the Health Melas.